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Abraham Lincoln's Contemporaries

James Cameron Allen

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

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Jas. C. Allen

The 50th Anniversary of Death of Judge
James C. Allen, Former Congressman
and One of Olney's Famous Persons

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF

HON. GEORGE E. SHIPLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 1962

Mr. SHIPLEY. Mr. Speaker, recently an article appeared in the Olney Daily Mail, Olney, Ill., reminding the people of the great services of Hon. James Cameron Allen, deceased, who probably was Olney's most renowned citizen of his day. He was a lawyer, prosecuting attorney, a member of the State house of representatives, Clerk of the National House of Representatives, circuit court Judge, Member of the U.S. Congress, and an active member of various local organizations. From information available, I am the fourth Olney U.S. Congressman to ever serve in the Congress.

In view of the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the death of this fine citizen, I am pleased to insert this well written article from the Daily Mail in the Appendix of the Record:

January 30 was the 50th anniversary of the death of the late Judge James C. Allen, who passed away on January 30, 1912 at the age of 90. Judge Allen was probably Olney's most renowned citizen in his day. He was born on January 29, 1822, and died the day following his 90th birthday.

Judge Allen, who was the father of the late Mrs. John Ratcliffe, James Allen, and William Y. Allen, of Olney, was for many years a circuit Judge. He moved to Palestine about 1854 and served four terms in Congress and was also Secretary of the House of Representatives during that time. He moved to Olney in 1877 after being elected circuit judge for many years.

He was a leader in the Democratic Party of the State and in 1860 was the Democratic nominee against Richard Yates, Sr., who was elected Governor of Illinois that year. During the Civil War, President Lincoln requested Judge Allen to accept a commission as brigadier general but he declined the nomination.

Judge Allen is reputed to have been considered as the Democratic nominee for President in 1860. He attended the famous Democratic Convention in Charleston, S.C. in 1860 and was a strong contender with Judge Stephen A. Douglas for the nomination. Because of the closeness of the Civil War, the Charleston convention was dissolved, and later Southern Democrats nominated John C. Breckinridge, while Northern Democrats nominated Judge Douglas.

Judge Allen delighted to tell his friends in Olney how near he came to being nominated for President.

Judge Allen was a law partner of the late Judge T. A. Fritchey for many years.



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